21(3)

1 Library
2 Library

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS.

A 17 OCT 58
58

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE
25 JUN 1963

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1957.

Report presented by

The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Public Health Inspector,

Hertford Rural District.

----------oOOOo----------

B

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1957.

I N D E X

			Page
PREFACE	... ...	...	4
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - Staff - Committee		...	5
SECTION A			
VITAL STATISTICS Etc:			
Population, Area in Acres, No. of Inhabited Houses, Rateable Value, Product of Penny Rate	Table 1	...	6
Births and Birth Rate, Deaths and Death Rate, Rates for England & Wales	Table 2	...	7
INFECTIOUS DISEASE - Prevalence of and Control		...	8/9
Deaths - Causes of, during 1957		...	10
SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES		...	11/12
Laboratory Service - County Council Health Services, Hospital, Medical and Dental Services, Other Services.			
SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA		...	13
Report of the Public Health Inspector.			
SECTION D - FACTORIES ACTS - Summary of Return		...	21

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29424677

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957.

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Councillors, Hertford Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Wright and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of Hertford Rural District for the year ending December, 1957.

On that date your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. John Wildman resigned to take up an appointment in Devon. I was invited by the East Hertfordshire Combined Sanitary Districts to act as Locum Medical Officer of Health until the appointment of a successor.

Dr. Wildman has asked me, in presenting this Annual Report to express his gratitude for the assistance and support he has enjoyed from Members of the Council during the nine years he has been your Medical Officer of Health.

At the same time, I wish to express my appreciation of the invariable kindness and courtesy I have met while acting as your temporary Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

R. P. GARROW.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Hoddesdon, October, 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - - STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John H. Wildman, M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.) D.P.H.,

Central Office: Council Offices,
High Street,
HODDESDON,
Herts.

Telephone: Office:- Hoddesdon 3061.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., BCh., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Senior Public Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H. E. GILBY.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.Board.
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:- D. R. HOWE.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Public Health Department.

Council Offices,
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
HERTFORD, Herts.

Telephone:- Hertford 3007 (2 lines).

Clerical Duties in the Public Health Department were carried out by Mrs. I. M. BALL, Miss E. Payne and Miss J. Twigden.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Public Health Matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee, the Chairman of which for the Session 1957/58 was Councillor Mr. F.S. BEETHAM.

The 'Improvements Committee' - Chairman Councillor Mr. C.J. TUCKER dealt with sub-standard housing.

S E C T I O N A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1957.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1956 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District :-

9030	(8,910)	
Natural Increase or decrease ...	...	+34
Migration in or out	...	+86
Total Increase or decrease ...	...	+120

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres 31,746

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books:

2,939	(2,851)

Number of Houses per acre.	0.09
Number of Persons per acre.	0.2
Number of Persons per house.	3.07

Rateable Value of District £74,460

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £313

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1957.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1956 are shown in brackets).

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.39	(17.45)
Area Comparability Factor for Births ...	1.01	(1.01)

Number of Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Total:	72	58	130
Legitimate	71	58	129
Illegitimate:	1	-	1
Number of Still Births	1	4	5

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.63	(9.68)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ...	1.04	(1.04)

Number of Deaths	Male	Female	Total
All Ages - Total:	46	50	96
Deaths of Infants under 1yr.	0	0	0
No. under 4 weeks of age	0	2	2

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births. 30.7 (12.99)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

BIRTH RATE 16.1 (15.7) DEATH RATE 11.5 (11.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate 23.0 (23.8)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1957:-

Disease	Total all ages.	Age group in years. Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	67	2	19	44	-	2	-
Poliomyelitis	3	-	1	2	-	-	-
Measles	283	7	76	183	14	3	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	-	-	1	-	2	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different Months.

Disease	Month and Number of Cases
Scarlet Fever	November (1) July (1)
Whooping Cough	January (9) February (1) April (1) June (2) July (34) August (17) September (1) October (1) November (1).
Poliomyelitis	June (1) August (2).
Measles	January (6) February (21) March (7) April (50) May (82) June (81) July (24) August (9) September (1) October (1) November (1).
Acute Pneumonia	November (1) December (2).
Acute Encephalitis	July (1).
Erysipelas	February (1).

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1957.

Parish	Disease and Number of Cases.
Aston	Measles (2) Whooping Cough (10).
Bayford	Measles (24).
Benington	Measles (1) Scarlet Fever (1).
Bengeo Rural	Measles (2).
Bramfield	Measles (30).
Brickendon Liberty	Measles (11) Whooping Cough (1).
Datchworth	Measles (35) Pneumonia (1) Acute Encephalitis (1) Erysipelas (1).
Hertingfordbury	Measles (8) Whooping Cough (1).
Little Amwell	Measles (53) Whooping Cough (3).
Little Berkhamsted	Measles (15).
Sacombe	Measles (6).
Stapleford	Measles (27) Whooping Cough (5) Poliomyelitis(2)
Tewin	Measles (25) Scarlet Fever (1) Poliomyelitis(1).
Walkern	Measles (11).
Watton-at-Stone	Measles (33) Whooping Cough (47) Pneumonia(2).

Prevention of Illness - Poliomyelitis Innoculations.

During the year the Hertfordshire County Council carried out a series of innoculations against poliomyelitis at centres convenient to children in the District.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc: during 1957:-

The year commenced with 44 names upon the Tuberculosis Register:-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Males	19	3
Females	17	5

Two New Cases were notified for the first time,

Males	0	0
Females	1	1

There were seven Inward Transfers, from other areas,

Males	4	1
Females	2	0

One patient died,

Males	0	0
Females	1	0

Two patients left the District (Outward Transfers).

Males	1	0
Females	0	1

Two patients were pronounced CURED,

Males	1	0
Females	1	0

The year therefore ended with 50 cases on the Register:-

Males	21	4
Females	20	5

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1957.

Line No.		M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	46	51
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4.	Diptheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0
11.	" " lung, bronchus	3	0
12.	" " breast	0	1
13.	" " uterus	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	5
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0
16.	Diabetes	0	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	11	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	2
20.	Other heart disease	6	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	3
22.	Influenza	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	6	4
24.	Bronchitis	0	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
34.	All other accidents	0	1
35.	Suicide	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	1	4
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	0	2
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age ...	0	0

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HERTFORD RURAL.

Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, Herts.

County Council Health Services.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses : 4. Welfare Centres : 7.
Mobile Clinics : 2.

Vaccinations, Diptheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of the parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plain, Hertford. (Telephone: Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this Service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A medical Loan Depot has been established at The Durrant Hall, Mill Bridge, Hertford.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hertford (Telephone : Hertford 3013). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery in the Hertford Rural District.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone : Ware 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

Hospital Services.

The Hertford Rural District is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford and by the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Luton & Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Practitioner Medical Services.

One General Practitioner resides and practises in the District, but the area is also served by Practitioners from adjoining localities.

Dental Service.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns.

Other Services.

There is a Club for Old People at Hertford Heath; there are also several Old People's Clubs in adjoining areas. Womens Institutes are active in 12 centres of the District.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA -

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1957.

Introduction.

During the year under review the development of the Councils activities has been directed, as before, towards the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene. The continued expansion of the Councils utility services (i.e., mains water, main drainage and refuse collection) coupled with the decrease in the demand for the cesspool emptying service provide ample tangible evidence of this very welcome trend.

Water Supplies.

The Council supplies water to the whole District, except the Parish of Little Amwell and a portion of Waterford village, where the suppliers are the Metropolitan Water Board and the Borough of Hertford respectively.

The remainder of the District is served by two systems, which provide water from boreholes owned and operated by the Council.

The Northern Area (parishes of Aston, Benington, Walkern, Watton-at-Stone, Stapleford, Sacombe and Bengeo Rural) obtain water from two boreholes each 310ft. deep and sunk in chalk at Aston; the Southern area (parishes of Brickendon, Bayford, Little Berkhamsted and Hertingfordbury) is supplied from similar boreholes at Little Berkhamsted.

Increased pumping capacity and the operation of the water tower at Bulls Green have resulted during the year in few, if any, interruptions in supply.

In the Southern Area the Southern Parishes scheme for mains extension, new tower construction at Epping Green and increased pumping capacity was commenced during the year and when completed will provide a mains supply to a further 24 properties at present dependant upon wells and otherwise unsatisfactory sources.

Private estate supplies continued in operation and although the quality of the water provided is not always of such good bacterial quality as that derived from the Councils mains, with one of two exceptions the quality is sufficiently good to leave little cause for anxiety on Public Health grounds.

Quality of Mains Supply.

Particulars of dwellings supplied from Public Water Mains :-

	No. of Houses connected to Mains.		No. of Houses supplied by Wells, Private Systems etc.	Total
	Piped Supply.	Stand-Pipe.		
Aston	170	3	20	193
Bayford	120	0	4	124
Benington	205	5	1	211
Bengeo Rural	103	3	14	120
Bramfield	73	1	2	76
Brickendon	85	1	40	126
Datchworth	319	20	7	346
Hertingfordbury	215	0	5	220
Little Amwell	288	22	0	310
Little Berkhamsted	163	2	0	165
Sacombe	60	0	0	60
Stapleford	136	19	2	157
Tewin	295	12	3	310
Walkern	244	6	15	265
Watton-at-Stone	264	9	1	274
	2,740	103	108	2,957
1956 Total	2,636	119	108	2,863

These figures show a significant decrease in the number of properties supplied by a standpipe only and the number of houses with piped internal supply has increased by 104.

Samples of the Councils main water analysed chemically have shown that although the water is hard it is pure and wholesome and regular samples taken for bacteriological examination have shown that the quality of the water from this aspect is very good indeed. Repeat samples were taken at once where analyses of public supplies did not reach the highest standards, and all proved entirely satisfactory. The quality of these samples is summarised in the table below.

	Public Supply.	Estate Mains.	Individual Private Wells.
Class I : "Highly Satisfactory"	100	9	3
Class II : "Satisfactory"	1	1	-
Class III : "Suspicious"	2	3	3
Class IV : "Unsatisfactory"	-	4	5
Total :	103	17	11

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The completion of the Datchworth sewerage scheme at the end of the previous year marked the commencement of a campaign to encourage the connection of all house drains to the new sewers where available. As a result the number of houses drained to cesspools decreased during the year by 70. The majority of these cesspools were in areas with a very high water table and the cesspool emptying service had only, with great difficulty, kept abreast of the demand. This reduction in demand is reflected firstly in the comparitive ease with which one vehicle and crew now cope with the situation and secondly in the reduction in the total number of tanker loads removed.

With the advent of main drainage (with one or two minor exceptions) it is now possible to dispose of tanker contents into the main sewers and thus the practice of land disposal, previously giving rise to complaints, has now to all intents and purposes ceased.

The Council continue to pursue their policy of providing main drainage wherever possible and during the year work on the Bengeo Rural scheme commenced and by the end of the year was substantially complete. A disturbing feature however is the number of houses with a sewer available, the owners of which still rely on the previous disposal arrangements by septic tank or cesspool.

This matter continues to engage the Councils attention and some progress is being made in spite of the limited powers available.

Refuse Collection.

The fortnightly collection service continues although the scheme is being reviewed and it is hoped that a weekly collection will soon become possible. During the year experiments were made collecting refuse using a patent refuse lorry with a worm type compressor. The advantages of the machine were apparent and the purchase of a vehicle of this type was approved by the Council. The number of houses from which refuse is collected increased during the year, by 74. Owing to green belt restrictions on development the majority of these properties were additions to existing council estates and the additional dustbins were emptied without serious difficulty.

Summary of Development of the Councils Undertakings and Services Since 1950.

The table on the next page shows in detail the extent to which the demand for the Councils main services and other undertakings has increased. For example in March, 1952 there were 2,562 houses in the District whereas at the end of 1957 there were 2,930 houses. This showed an increase of 14.4% of 114.4% of Datum. The extent to which demand has increased can be judged from the figures given.

SERVICE	31st MARCH, 1952		YEAR ENDING 1957	
	No.	Datum	No.	% Datum
No. of Houses	2562	100	2930	114.4
WATER				
Houses supplied	2152	100	2513	116.8
Staff engaged	0.875	100	2.19	250.3
MAIN SEWERAGE				
No. of houses connected	980	-	1506	153.6
Staff engaged	4.18	-	4.41	105.5
DATCHWORTH SEWERAGE				
Houses connected	-	-	190	-
CESSPOOL EMPTYING				
Houses drained to cesspools	1155	100	1037	89.79
Loads of sewage removed	824	100	652	79.12
Staff engaged	2.4	100	2.21	92.09
REFUSE COLLECTION				
Houses served	2552	100	2921	114.5
Staff engaged	3.27	100	4.52	138.2

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

During the year 1957.

Factories Act.	14
Food and Drugs Act:	
Food Premises	68
Housing Acts:	
Inspections and interviews	1157
Improvement Grants	251
Public Health Acts:	
Caravans	4
Complaints	30
Infectious Diseases	32
Nuisances	19
Refuse Collection	27
Sewerage	514
Verminous Premises	14
Water Supplies	347
Petrol Storage	18
Rodent Control	92
Miscellaneous Visits	30
Total	2617

Food and Drugs Act.

Details of registrations and licences in force, and further particulars concerning milk and other foods, are as below :-

Milk and Dairies.			Total.
Registered Dairies			5
Registered Distributors			15
Designated Milk Licences:-	**Dealers**	**Supplementary.**	
Tuberculin Tested ...	6	11	17
Pasteurised	7	11	18
Sterilised	3	10	13

Slaughterhouses.	
Licensed Slaughterhouses	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	3

Ice Cream Premises.	
Registered for Manufacture	-
" " Storage	-
" " Sale	27

Preserved Foods.	
(a) Sausage Manufacture	2
(b) Other Preserved Food Manufacture	2

Food Premises by type of business.	
Bakery (no shop)	1
Bakery with shop	2
Butcher	4
Cafe	10
Greengrocery	5
Grocery and General	22
Office or industrial canteen	1
Hotel	4
Licensed Houses: Full Licence	39
Off Licence only	2
Mineral Water Factory	1
Poultry slaughterhouse and Packing Establishment ...	1
Gut Cleaning and Sausage Skin Dressing	1

Meat Inspections

All food animals intended for sale for human consumption and killed in the one licenced slaughterhouse were inspected and details are shown below :-

	Cattle (excl. Cows.)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed and inspected	-	-	2	5	6

HOUSING ACTS.

Substandard Properties.

During the year the house to house survey of the District continued and the Council considered reports on the housing conditions in four more Parishes. It was decided to serve Notices of Time and Place in respect of 37 properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 Housing Act, 1936. No appeals were lodged against subsequent Demolition Orders made where the property owners did not submit reconditioning schemes. These Demolition Orders totalled 32 for the year under review and the following table gives more complete indication of the progress made towards the eradication of substandard properties:-

Demolition Orders Made	32
Undertaking not to relet	4
Notices of Time and Place served	37
Reconditioning Proposals accepted	4
Reconditioning completed	3
Houses demolished	21
Total visits made in connection with surveys, demolition orders and housing repairs was:	1,408

Improvement Grants.

Grants totalling £3,854 were made by the Council to property owners wishing to modernise and improve structurally sound old properties. The number of houses involved was 12 and it is interesting to note that of these 8 of the properties improved were farm cottages, of the remaining four were owner occupied and two let to tenants.

Housing Progress.

The following table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925).

	During 1957.	Since 1945.
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwellings erected	37	257
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	2
Repairs to war-damaged houses	-	31
Conversions or adaptions in terms of family units	1	32
BY LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY		
New dwellings erected	54	485
Conversions or adaptions in terms of family units	-	-
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	-
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc.,)	-	45
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1957.		
Council Houses	759	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	
Sundries	1	

Public Health Act, 1936.

The public reaction to a Public Health nuisance is such that although a number of Public Health nuisances were investigated during the year they were abated without resource to statutory action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

As in previous years sewers were treated in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation to ensure destruction of rats but no major infestations were reported.

SECTION D.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following is a summary of information already supplied in detail to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised), in respect of the year 1957.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Factories without Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	-
Inspections	-

Factories with Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	31
Inspections	14
Written Notices	-

Other Premises under the Act:

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworker's Premises).

Number on Register	-
Inspections	-
Written Notices	-

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Defect	Found	Remedied
-	-	-

Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector ...	-
" " " by " ...	-

LIBRARY